

Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION DLOS-04

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-15 SAL-01 SP-02 EB-07 INR-07 IO-13

L-03 OES-06 PM-04 NSC-05 NSCE-00 SSO-00 INRE-00

DODE-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 /068 W

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FM USMISSION USUN NY

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7263

AMEMBASSY DAKAR IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T USUN 1894

FROM LOS DEL

FOR SECRETARY FROM LEARSON

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PLOS

SUBJECT: LOS--COMMITTEE (DEEP SEABEDS)

1. SUMMARY. AMB. LEARSON RECOMMENDS THAT THE SECRETARY TAKE APPROPRIATE STEPS WITH SELECTED LDC FOREIGN MINISTERS TO HEAD OFF GROUP OF 77 REJECTION OF NEW COMMITTEE I DEEP SEABEDS TEXTS WHICH BASICALLY REFLECT THE SECRETARY'S COMPROMISE PROPOSALS OF APRIL 8. END SUMMARY.

2. PAUL ENGO (CAMEROON), THE CHAIRMAN OF COMMITTEE I, HAS ISSUED NEW "PERSONAL" TEXTS WHICH BASICALLY REFLECT THE SECRETARY'S COMPROMISE PROPOSALS. FYI: THESE TEXTS WERE IN FACT SECRETLY NEGOTIATED IN THE SO-CALLED SECRET BRAZIL GROUP (BRAZIL, CHILE, MEXICO, JAMICA, KENYA, PERU, SINGAPORE, USA, FRANCE). END FYI. THE TEXTS ARE UNDER VERY HEAVY ATTACK IN THE GROUP OF 77 AS BEING A SELL-OUT TO THE INDUSTRIALIZED COUNTRIES, PARTICULARLY THE US. WHILE MEMBERS OF THE SECRET BRAZIL GROUP ARE DEFENDING THE TEXTS (EXCEPT FOR MEXICO WHICH IS OPPOSING THEM
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VIOLENTLY), THE EFFECT OF THE ATTACK MAY BE TO WEAKEN

ENGO'S RESOLVE TO STAND FIRM AND ISSUE THESE TEXTS WITHOUT CHANGE AS THE NEW SINGLE NEGOTIATING TEXT NEXT WEEK (LAST WEEK OF SESSION) WHICH WOULD FORM THE BASIS FOR NEGOTIATION OF FINAL TREATY AT NEXT SESSION. IF ENGO CHANGES THE TEXTS IN DIRECTION HARD-LINE 77 POSITIONS, OUR CHANCES OF HEADING OFF DEEP SEABED MINING LEGISLATION WILL BE SHARPLY REDUCED, AS WILL BE THE CHANCES OF SUCCESSFULLY CONCLUDING THE LOS TREATY THIS YEAR OR PERHAPS AT ANY TIME IN THE FORESEEABLE FUTURE.

3. THE LEADERS OF THE ATTACK ARE ALGERIA, INDIA, GHANA, MEXICO, ROMANIA. ALGERIA IS CARRYING THE ARAB GROUP AND GHANA IS INFLUENTIAL AMONG THE SUB-SAHARA AFRICAN STATES.

4. WE HAVE ATTEMPTED, THROUGH AN APPROACH TO THE PRESIDENT OF MEXICO, TO REVERSE THEIR POSITION WITHOUT SUCCESS. WE HAVE ALSO SPOKEN TO THE HEAD OF THE EGYPTIAN DELEGATION, WHO HAS VAGUELY PROMISED COOPERATION AT THE MEETING OF THE ARAB GROUP ON MONDAY. WE HAVE INFORMED THE HEAD OF THE INDIAN DELEGATION THAT WE ARE SENDING A REPORT TO THE SECRETARY THIS WEEKEND ON THE SITUATION IN COMMITTEE I, INCLUDING INDIAN POSITION; HE REQUESTED AN URGENT MEETING WITH US SUNDAY MORNING.

5. WE RECOMMEND THAT THE SECRETARY BY MONDAY MORNING AT THE LATEST, ATTEMPT TO THE EXTENT POSSIBLE TO PERSUADE RELEVANT FOREIGN MINISTERS TO INSTRUCT THEIR DELEGATIONS IN NEW YORK. THE RECOMMENDED OBJECTIVES ARE AS FOLLOWS:

- A) TURN AROUND THE LEADING OPPONENTS MENTIONED IN PARA 3 ABOVE;
 - B) SPLIT THE ARAB GROUP FROM ALGERIA;
 - C) SHORE UP THE MORALE OF PERU, BRAZIL AND CHILE WHOSE DELEGATIONS ARE COOPERATING ON THE DEAL DESPITE HEAVY ATTACKS ON THEM BY MEXICO AND OTHERS FOR HAVING SOLD OUT TO THE DEVELOPED STATES;
 - D) IN ADDITION TO KENYA, TRY TO GET SOME KEY AFRICANS (E.G., SENEGAL, NIGERIA, ZAIRE, MADAGASCAR)
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TO BREAK WITH GHANA AND SUPPORT THE NEW ENGO TEXTS. IT THIS REGARD THEY CAN BE REMINDED THAT THEY WOULD BE SUPPORTING THE ONLY AFRICAN CHAIRMAN OF A MAIN CONFERENCE COMMITTEE WHO HAS MADE A HERCULEAN EFFORT TO BRIDGE THE GRP BETWEEN NORTH AND SOUTH.

E) IF POSSIBLE, NOTE TO VENEZUELA THAT A REJECTION OF TEXTS IN COMMITTEE I COULD DESTROY THE SPECTACULAR WORK DONE BY AMB. AGUILAR (VENEZUELA)

IN COMMITTEE II TO BRING THE NEGOTIATION TO A SUCCESSFUL CONCLUSION.

6. TO BE MOST EFFECTIVE, DELEGATIONS HERE SHOULD BE INSTRUCTED BY THEIR FOREIGN MINISTERS BEFORE 3 P.M. MONDAY NEW YORK TIME. WHILE THE 77 MAY CONTINUE MEETING ON TUESDAY, IRREPARABLE HARM MAY BE DONE ON MONDAY.

7. REQUEST CONTINGENCY AUTHORITY TO DELIVER MESSAGE TO ENGO FROM THE SECRETARY THAT PURSUANT TO THEIR CONVERSATION, THE SECRETARY IS DIRECTLY TAKING APPROPRIATE STEPS TO ENSURE SUPPORT FOR ENGO IN HIS ATTEMPT TO BRIDGE THE GAP BETWEEN DEVELOPED AND DEVELOPING COUNTRIES, AND URGES THAT ENGO STAND FIRM ON HIS TEXTS AS AN ESSENTIAL ACT OF VISION AND STATESMANSHIP NECESSARY TO PRESERVE THE CHANCES FOR A SUCCESSFUL LAW OF THE SEA TREATY AND A FUTURE COOPERATIVE REGIME.
BENNETT

NOTE BY OC/T: DISSEMINATION COORDINATED WITH S/S-O - MR. TANNER.

SECRET

NNN

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